

Conversation...

Chief Scott Holmquist

By Mallory Fites, communications assistant, Sacramento Headquarters



Chief Scott Holmquist has worked for CAL FIRE for 27 years. He was recently appointed Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection on December 18, 2006. We stopped by his office to learn more about his career and new position with CAL FIRE:

Can you give us an overview of your career with CAL FIRE?

In October 1980 I was a firefighter with the Shasta County Fire Department which contracted with CAL FIRE. I later became a fire apparatus engineer. In August 1985 I promoted to Fire Captain B at the now closed Black Mountain Conservation Camp in Sonoma. In February of 1988 I transferred to the Emergency Command Center in Shasta.

In 1992 I transferred to the schedule B station and later that year promoted to a Battalion Chief. In 1993 I transferred to the Sierra Cascade Region as an Emergency Command Chief.

In July 1995 I transferred to the Shasta Trinity unit as the ECC Chief. In April 1999 I took a field battalion position. In July 2000 I promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations in the Shasta Trinity unit and in May 2006 I promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations. Then in December of 2006 I accepted this position.

How have you spent your first few months as Assistant Deputy Director?

Getting to know the programs I oversee and getting a better understanding of the business processes for the different functions within the department.

How do you define your new role as Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection?

I support the department's regions and units with their needs.

What has been your biggest accomplishment during your career?

When I oversaw the Shasta County Fire Department and I secured several millions of dollars for apparatus. As far as the State goes, working in a lot of the program areas at different levels.

What are some of your initial impressions regarding the changes over the last year and changes to come?

The big ones are year-round immediate response assignments (IRAs) for employees and changing the firefighter work week to 72 hours. As for the future, training folks for the upcoming years to fill up the retirements that have occurred over the last few years.

What do you enjoy doing while not at work?

A lot of things, the first being with my family and the second skiing—both snow skiing and waterskiing.

Can you tell us more about your family?

My wife of 19 years is a personal trainer, which hasn't done much for me. I have a daughter who is a senior in high school; she just competed in the statewide Snowboard Championship.